



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:	Shannon Mary Nelson et al.)	Confirmation	9968
)	No.	
Serial No.:	09/544,762)	Art Unit:	2633
)		
Filed:	04/07/2000)	Examiner:	SEDIGHIAN,
)		REZA
For:	Rugged Shock-Resistant Backplane for)		
	Embedded Systems)		

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131(a)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131(a), Shannon Mary Nelson, Richard Joseph Pall, and Mark D. Hischke, the Applicants [hereinafter "Applicants"] in the above identified patent application, declare as follows:

1. Applicants are co-inventors of the invention described in U.S. Patent No. 09/544,762 [hereinafter the " '762 Application"], filed on April 07, 2000, entitled "Rugged Shock-Resistant Backplane for Embedded System". Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true copy of the Declaration for Utility or Design Application executed by the Applicants on March 20, 2000 and March 28, 2000, as evidenced by the Applicants dated signatures. The Declaration specifies that the Applicants are the original, first and co-inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the '762 Application.

2. Applicants invented the invention described in the aforementioned '762 Application before February 08, 2000, the filing date of U.S. Patent No. US 6,650,844 B1 entitled "Interconnecting Circuit Boards Using Free Space Optics" to Davies et al.

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a true copy of a document generated by Shannon M. Nelson, entitled "Communication In A High Speed, Embedded System Able To Withstand High Shock And Vibration", dated February 19, 1999 and presented in a confidential manner, which describes the invention of the subject '762 Application. Exhibit C is evidence that the Applicants invented the invention described in the aforementioned '762 Application before February 27, 2002, the filing date of U.S. Patent No. US 6,650,844 B1 entitled "Interconnecting Circuit Boards Using Free Space Optics" to Davies et al.

4. Applicants declare that all statements herein are true, and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the '762 Application or any patent issuing thereon.

Shannon M. Nelson 28 JUN 05

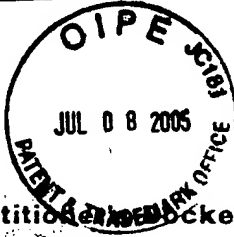
Shannon Mary Nelson (signature and date)

Richard J. Paul 6/24/05

Richard Joseph Paul (signature and date)

Mark D. Hischke 6/29/2005

Mark D. Hischke (signature and date)



Practitioner Packet No. NORTH-390A /A-2241

PATENT

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION, OR C-I-P)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type:

(check one applicable item below)

- ☒ original.
- ☐ design.
- ☐ supplemental.

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application, do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

- ☐ national stage of PCT.

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P.

NOTE: See 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d) (continued prosecution application) for use of a prior nonprovisional application declaration in the continuation or divisional application being filed on behalf of the same or fewer of the inventors named in the prior application.

- ☐ divisional.
- ☐ continuation.

NOTE: Where an application discloses and claims subject matter not disclosed in the prior application, or a continuation or divisional application names an inventor not named in the prior application, a continuation-in-part application must be filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) (application filing requirements — nonprovisional application).

- ☐ continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims, an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name. I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed, and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

RUGGED SHOCK-RESISTANT BACKPLANE FOR EMBEDDED SYSTEMS

PECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which:

(complete (a), (b), or (c))

(a) ☒ is attached hereto.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed on the application filing date with a specification are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(1) name of inventor(s), and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration on filing;

"(2) name of inventor(s), and attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;
or

"(3) name of inventor(s), and title which was on the specification as filed."

Notice of July 13, 1995 (1177 O.G. 60).

(b) ☐ was filed on _____, as ☐ Serial No. 0 / _____
or ☐ _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO that contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.67.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed after the filing date are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(A) application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456);

"(B) serial number and filing date;

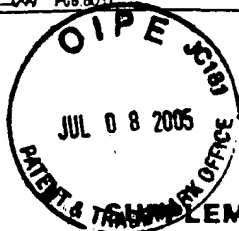
"(C) attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;

"(D) title which was on the specification as filed and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration; or

"(E) title which was on the specification as filed and accompanied by a cover letter accurately identifying the application for which it was intended by either the application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456), or serial number and filing date. Absent any statement(s) to the contrary, it will be presumed that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the oath or declaration."

M.P.E.P. § 601.01(a), 7th Ed.

(c) ☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. _____, filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

**SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.67(b))**

(complete the following where a supplemental declaration is being submitted)

- ☐ I hereby declare that the subject matter of the
- ☐ attached amendment
 - ☐ amendment filed on _____

was part of my/our invention and was invented before the filing date of the original application, above-identified, for such invention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56,

(also check the following items, if desired)

- ☒ and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, and
- ☐ in compliance with this duty, there is attached an information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §§ 119(a)-(d))

NOTE: "The claim to priority need be in no special form and may be made by the attorney or agent if the foreign application is referred to in the oath or declaration as required by § 1.63. The claim for priority and the certified copy of the foreign application specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(b) must be filed in the case of an interference (§ 1.630), when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner, when specifically required by the examiner, and in all other situations, before the patent is granted. If the claim for priority or the certified copy of the foreign application is filed after the date the issue fee is paid, it must be accompanied by a petition requesting entry and by the fee set forth in § 1.17(i). If the certified copy is not in the English language, a translation need not be filed except in the case of interference; or when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner; or when specifically required by the examiner, in which event an English language translation must be filed together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate." 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §§ 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

- (d) ☒ no such applications have been filed.
- (e) ☐ such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION
AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)**

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)
(34 U.S.C. § 119(e))

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER

FILING DATE

____ / _____
____ / _____
____ / _____

**CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER US/PCT APPLICATION(S)
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120**

- ☐ The claim for the benefit of any such applications are set forth in the attached ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART (C-I-P) APPLICATION.

(Declaration and Power of Attorney [1-1]—page 4 of 7)

**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

NOTE: If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application entering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P APPLICATION for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT application(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

(list name and registration number)

Terry J. Anderson, Esq., Reg. No. 24,271; Karl J. Hoch, Jr., Reg. No. 34,181;
Kit M. Stetina, Reg. No. 29,445; Bruce B. Brunda, Reg. No. 28,497;
Mark B. Garred, Reg. No. 34,823; William J. Brucker, Reg. No. 35,462;
Matthew A. Newboles, Reg. No. 36,224; Thomas C. Naber, Reg. No. 26,777;
Eric L. Tanezaki, Reg. No. 40,196;

(check the following item, if applicable)

- ☐ I hereby appoint the practitioner(s) associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.
- ☐ Attached, as part of this declaration and power of attorney, is the authorization of the above-named practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from my representative(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
(Name and telephone number)

☒ Address

Terry J. Anderson, Esq.
NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION
1840 Century Park East
Los Angeles, CA 90067-2199

Terry J. Anderson, Esq.
(310) 332-5666

☐ Customer Number

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

NOTE: Carefully indicate the family (or last) name, as it should appear on the filing receipt and all other documents.

NOTE: Each inventor must be identified by full name, including the family name, and at least one given name without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and by his/her residence, post office address and country of citizenship. 37 CFR § 1.63(a)(3).

NOTE: Inventors may execute separate declarations/oaths provided each declaration/oath sets forth all the inventors. Section 1.63(a)(3) requires that a declaration/oath, inter alia, identify each inventor and prohibits the execution of separate declarations/oaths which each sets forth only the name of the executing inventor. 62 Fed. Reg. 53,131, 53,142, October 10, 1997,

Full name of sole or first inventor

<u>Shannon</u> (GIVEN NAME)	<u>Mary</u> (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME)	<u>Nelson</u> FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
Inventor's signature <u>Shannon Mary Nelson</u>		
Date <u>March 20, 2000</u> Country of Citizenship <u>U.S.A.</u>		
Residence <u>5122 North Natoma Avenue, Chicago, IL 60656</u>		
Post Office Address <u>5122 North Natoma Avenue, Chicago, IL 60656</u>		

Full name of second joint inventor, if any

<u>Richard</u> (GIVEN NAME)	<u>Joseph</u> (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME)	<u>Paul</u> FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
Inventor's signature _____		
Date _____ Country of Citizenship <u>U.S.A.</u>		
Residence <u>456 Harvard Lane, Bartlett, IL 60103</u>		
Post Office Address <u>456 Harvard Lane, Bartlett, IL 60103</u>		

Full name of third joint inventor, if any

<u>Mark</u> (GIVEN NAME)	<u>D.</u> (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME)	<u>Hischke</u> FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)
Inventor's signature _____		
Date _____ Country of Citizenship <u>U.S.A.</u>		
Residence <u>4 Walnut Lane, Algonquin, IL 60102</u>		
Post Office Address <u>4 Walnut Lane, Algonquin, IL 60102</u>		

*(check proper box(es) for any of the following added page(s)
that form a part of this declaration)*

- ☐ **Signature** for fourth and subsequent joint inventors. *Number of pages added* _____

. . .

- ☐ **Signature** by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. *Number of pages added* _____

. . .

- ☐ **Signature** for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. *Number of pages added* _____

. . .

- ☐ Added page for **signature** by one joint inventor on behalf of deceased inventor(s) where legal representative cannot be appointed in time. (37 CFR 1.47)

. . .

- ☐ Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (C-I-P) application.

☐ Number of pages added _____

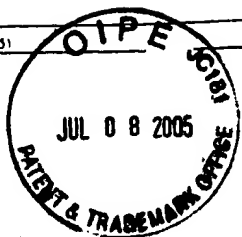
. . .

- ☐ Authorization of practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative.

. . .

*(if no further pages form a part of this Declaration,
then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item)*

☒ This declaration ends with this page.



Practitioner's Docket No. NORTH- 390A /A- 2241

PATENT

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL,
CONTINUATION, OR C-I-P)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type:

(check one applicable item below)

- ☒ original.
- ☐ design.
- ☐ supplemental.

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application, do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

- ☐ national stage of PCT.

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P.

NOTE: See 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d) (continued prosecution application) for use of a prior nonprovisional application declaration in the continuation or divisional application being filed on behalf of the same or fewer of the inventors named in the prior application.

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- ☐ continuation.

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- ☐ continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims, an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name. I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed, and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

RUGGED SHOCK-RESISTANT BACKPLANE FOR EMBEDDED SYSTEMS

ECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which:

(complete (a), (b), or (c))

(a) ☒ is attached hereto.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed on the application filing date with a specification are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

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"(2) name of inventor(s), and attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;
or

"(3) name of inventor(s), and title which was on the specification as filed."

Notice of July 13, 1995 (1177 O.G. 60).

(b) ☐ was filed on _____, as ☐ Serial No. 0 / _____
or ☐ _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO that contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.67.

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"(A) application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456);

"(B) serial number and filing date;

"(C) attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;

"(D) title which was on the specification as filed and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration; or

"(E) title which was on the specification as filed and accompanied by a cover letter accurately identifying the application for which it was intended by either the application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456), or serial number and filing date. Absent any statement(s) to the contrary, it will be presumed that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the oath or declaration."

M.P.E.P. § 601.01(a), 7th Ed.

(c) ☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. _____, filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.67(b))

(complete the following where a supplemental declaration is being submitted)

- ☐ I hereby declare that the subject matter of the
- ☐ attached amendment
 - ☐ amendment filed on _____

was part of my/our invention and was invented before the filing date of the original application, above-identified, for such invention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56,

(also check the following items, if desired)

- ☒ and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, and
- ☐ in compliance with this duty, there is attached an information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §§ 119(a)-(d))

NOTE: "The claim to priority need be in no special form and may be made by the attorney or agent if the foreign application is referred to in the oath or declaration as required by § 1.63. The claim for priority and the certified copy of the foreign application specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(b) must be filed in the case of an interference (§ 1.630), when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner, when specifically required by the examiner, and in all other situations, before the patent is granted. If the claim for priority or the certified copy of the foreign application is filed after the date the issue fee is paid, it must be accompanied by a petition requesting entry and by the fee set forth in § 1.17(f). If the certified copy is not in the English language, a translation need not be filed except in the case of interference; or when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner; or when specifically required by the examiner, in which event an English language translation must be filed together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate." 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §§ 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

- (d) ☒ no such applications have been filed.
- (e) ☐ such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION
AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)**

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)
(34 U.S.C. § 119(e))

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER

FILING DATE

____ / _____
____ / _____
____ / _____

**CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER US/PCT APPLICATION(S)
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120**

- ☐ The claim for the benefit of any such applications are set forth in the attached ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART (C-I-P) APPLICATION.

**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

NOTE: If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application entering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P APPLICATION for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT application(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

(list name and registration number)

Terry J. Anderson, Esq., Reg. No. 24,271; Karl J. Hoch, Jr., Reg. No. 34,181;
Kit M. Stetina, Reg. No. 29,445; Bruce B. Brunda, Reg. No. 28,497;
Mark B. Garred, Reg. No. 34,823; William J. Brucker, Reg. No. 35,462;
Matthew A. Newboles, Reg. No. 36,224; Thomas C. Naber, Reg. No. 26,777;
Eric L. Tanezaki, Reg. No. 40,196;

(check the following item, if applicable)

- ☐ I hereby appoint the practitioner(s) associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.
- ☐ Attached, as part of this declaration and power of attorney, is the authorization of the above-named practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from my representative(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO**DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:**
(Name and telephone number)

☒ Address

Terry J. Anderson, Esq.
NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION
1840 Century Park East
Los Angeles, CA 90067-2199

Terry J. Anderson, Esq.
(310) 332-5666

☐ Customer Number _____

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

NOTE: Carefully indicate the family (or last) name, as it should appear on the filing receipt and all other documents.

NOTE: Each inventor must be identified by full name, including the family name, and at least one given name without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and by his/her residence, post office address and country of citizenship. 37 CFR § 1.63(a)(3).

NOTE: Inventors may execute separate declarations/oaths provided each declaration/oath sets forth all the inventors. Section 1.63(a)(3) requires that a declaration/oath, *inter alia*, identify each inventor and prohibits the execution of separate declarations/oaths which each sets forth only the name of the executing inventor. 62 Fed. Reg. 53,131, 53,142, October 10, 1997,

Full name of sole or first inventor

Shannon

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(MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME)

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Inventor's signature _____

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Paul

FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)

Inventor's signature Richard J. Paul

Date 3/28/2000 Country of Citizenship U.S.A.

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D.

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(check proper box(es) for any of the following added page(s)
that form a part of this declaration)

- ☐ **Signature** for fourth and subsequent joint inventors. Number of pages added _____

. . .

- ☐ **Signature** by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or incapacitated inventor. Number of pages added _____

. . .

- ☐ **Signature** for inventor who refuses to sign or cannot be reached by person authorized under 37 CFR 1.47. Number of pages added _____

. . .

- ☐ Added page for **signature** by one joint inventor on behalf of deceased inventor(s) where legal representative cannot be appointed in time. (37 CFR 1.47)

. . .

- ☐ Added pages to combined declaration and power of attorney for divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part (C-I-P) application.

☐ Number of pages added _____

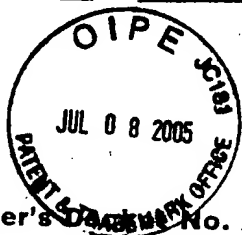
. . .

- ☐ Authorization of practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from representative.

. . .

(if no further pages form a part of this Declaration,
then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item)

☒ This declaration ends with this page.



Practitioner's Designation No. NORTH-390A /A-2241

PATENT

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

(ORIGINAL, DESIGN, NATIONAL STAGE OF PCT, SUPPLEMENTAL, DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION, OR C-I-P)

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

TYPE OF DECLARATION

This declaration is of the following type:

(check one applicable item below)

- ☒ original.
- ☐ design.
- ☐ supplemental.

NOTE: If the declaration is for an International Application being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application, do not check next item; check appropriate one of last three items.

- ☐ national stage of PCT.

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and also attach ADDED PAGES FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P.

NOTE: See 37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d) (continued prosecution application) for use of a prior nonprovisional application declaration in the continuation or divisional application being filed on behalf of the same or fewer of the inventors named in the prior application.

- ☐ divisional.
- ☐ continuation.

NOTE: Where an application discloses and claims subject matter not disclosed in the prior application, or a continuation or divisional application names an inventor not named in the prior application, a continuation-in-part application must be filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) (application filing requirements — nonprovisional application).

- ☐ continuation-in-part (C-I-P).

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

WARNING: If the inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims, an explanation of the facts, including the ownership of all the claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below, next to my name. I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter that is claimed, and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TITLE OF INVENTION

RUGGED SHOCK-RESISTANT BACKPLANE FOR EMBEDDED SYSTEMS

SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

the specification of which:

(complete (a), (b), or (c))

(a) ☒ is attached hereto.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed on the application filing date with a specification are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(1) name of inventor(s), and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration on filing;

"(2) name of inventor(s), and attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;
or

"(3) name of inventor(s), and title which was on the specification as filed."

Notice of July 13, 1995 (1177 O.G. 60).

(b) ☐ was filed on _____, as ☐ Serial No. 0 / _____
or ☐ _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

NOTE: Amendments filed after the original papers are deposited with the PTO that contain new matter are not accorded a filing date by being referred to in the declaration. Accordingly, the amendments involved are those filed with the application papers or, in the case of a supplemental declaration, are those amendments claiming matter not encompassed in the original statement of invention or claims. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.67.

NOTE: "The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed after the filing date are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 CFR 1.63:

"(A) application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456);

"(B) serial number and filing date;

"(C) attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;

"(D) title which was on the specification as filed and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration; or

"(E) title which was on the specification as filed and accompanied by a cover letter accurately identifying the application for which it was intended by either the application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456), or serial number and filing date. Absent any statement(s) to the contrary, it will be presumed that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the oath or declaration."

M.P.E.P. § 601.01(a), 7th Ed.

(c) ☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. _____, filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION (37 C.F.R. § 1.67(b))

(complete the following where a supplemental declaration is being submitted)

- ☐ I hereby declare that the subject matter of the
- ☐ attached amendment
- ☐ amendment filed on _____

was part of my/our invention and was invented before the filing date of the original application, above-identified, for such invention.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56,

(also check the following items, if desired)

- ☒ and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, and
- ☐ in compliance with this duty, there is attached an information disclosure statement, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98.

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §§ 119(a)-(d))

NOTE: "The claim to priority need be in no special form and may be made by the attorney or agent if the foreign application is referred to in the oath or declaration as required by § 1.63. The claim for priority and the certified copy of the foreign application specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(b) must be filed in the case of an interference (§ 1.630), when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner, when specifically required by the examiner, and in all other situations, before the patent is granted. If the claim for priority or the certified copy of the foreign application is filed after the date the issue fee is paid, it must be accompanied by a petition requesting entry and by the fee set forth in § 1.17(f). If the certified copy is not in the English language, a translation need not be filed except in the case of interference; or when necessary to overcome the date of a reference relied upon by the examiner; or when specifically required by the examiner, in which event an English language translation must be filed together with a statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate." 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §§ 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed.

(complete (d) or (e))

- (d) ☒ no such applications have been filed.
- (e) ☐ such applications have been filed as follows.

NOTE: Where item (c) is entered above and the International Application which designated the U.S. itself claimed priority check item (e), enter the details below and make the priority claim.

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) FILED WITHIN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS APPLICATION
AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)**

COUNTRY (OR INDICATE IF PCT)	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 USC 119
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES NO <input type="checkbox"/>

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION(S)
(34 U.S.C. § 119(e))

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER

FILING DATE

_____ / _____	_____
_____ / _____	_____
_____ / _____	_____

CLAIM FOR BENEFIT OF EARLIER US/PCT APPLICATION(S)
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120

- ☐ The claim for the benefit of any such applications are set forth in the attached ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR CONTINUATION-IN-PART (C-I-P) APPLICATION.

**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED MORE THAN 12 MONTHS
(6 MONTHS FOR DESIGN) PRIOR TO THIS U.S. APPLICATION**

NOTE: If the application filed more than 12 months from the filing date of this application is a PCT filing forming the basis for this application entering the United States as (1) the national stage, or (2) a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part, then also complete ADDED PAGES TO COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR DIVISIONAL, CONTINUATION OR C-I-P APPLICATION for benefit of the prior U.S. or PCT application(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

(list name and registration number)

Terry J. Anderson, Esq., Reg. No. 24,271; Karl J. Hoch, Jr., Reg. No. 34,181;
Kit M. Stetina, Reg. No. 29,445; Bruce B. Brunda, Reg. No. 28,497;
Mark B. Garred, Reg. No. 34,823; William J. Brucker, Reg. No. 35,462;
Matthew A. Newboles, Reg. No. 36,224; Thomas C. Naber, Reg. No. 26,777;
Eric L. Tanezaki, Reg. No. 40,196;

(check the following item, if applicable)

- ☐ I hereby appoint the practitioner(s) associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.
- ☐ Attached, as part of this declaration and power of attorney, is the authorization of the above-named practitioner(s) to accept and follow instructions from my representative(s).

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
(Name and telephone number)

☒ Address

Terry J. Anderson, Esq.
NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION
1840 Century Park East
Los Angeles, CA 90067-2199

Terry J. Anderson, Esq.
(310) 332-5666

☐ Customer Number --

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

SIGNATURE(S)

NOTE: Carefully indicate the family (or last) name, as it should appear on the filing receipt and all other documents.

NOTE: Each inventor must be identified by full name, including the family name, and at least one given name without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and by his/her residence, post office address and country of citizenship. 37 CFR § 1.63(a)(3).

NOTE: Inventors may execute separate declarations/oaths provided each declaration/oath sets forth all the inventors. Section 1.63(a)(3) requires that a declaration/oath, inter alia, identify each inventor and prohibits the execution of separate declarations/oaths which each sets forth only the name of the executing inventor. 62 Fed. Reg. 53,131, 53,142, October 10, 1997.

Full name of sole or first inventor

Shannon Mary Nelson
(GIVEN NAME) (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME) FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)

Inventor's signature _____

Date _____ Country of Citizenship U.S.A.

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Post Office Address 5122 North Natoma Avenue, Chicago, IL 60656

Full name of second joint inventor, if any

Richard Joseph Paul
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Inventor's signature _____

Date _____ Country of Citizenship U.S.A.

Residence 456 Harvard Lane, Bartlett, IL 60103

Post Office Address 456 Harvard Lane, Bartlett, IL 60103

Full name of third joint inventor, if any

Mark D. Hischke
(GIVEN NAME) (MIDDLE INITIAL OR NAME) FAMILY (OR LAST NAME)

Inventor's signature Mark D. Hischke

Date 3/20/2000 Country of Citizenship U.S.A.

Residence 4 Walnut Lane, Algonquin, IL 60102

Post Office Address 4 Walnut Lane, Algonquin, IL 60102

(check proper box(es) for any of the following added page(s)
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. . .

- ☐ **Signature** by administrator(trix), executor(trix) or legal representative for deceased or Incapacitated inventor. Number of pages added _____

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. . .

(if no further pages form a part of this Declaration,
then end this Declaration with this page and check the following item)

☒ This declaration ends with this page.



IrDA Backplane

Communication In A High Speed, Embedded
System Able To Withstand High Shock And
Vibration

Shannon M. Nelson
February 19, 1999
Revision 1.2



Revision History:

Revision	Date	Comment	Author
1.0	February 12, 1999	Original release	S. M. Nelson
1.1	February 19, 1999	Statement of unique features	S. M. Nelson
1.2	February 19, 1999	Clean-up of unique features	S. M. Nelson



1. Introduction

IrDA is an Infrared communication scheme similar to that used in remote controls for televisions, stereos, and other entertainment units. It uses an LED and photodiode to transmit and receive data optically. IrDA is commonly found in computers and computer peripherals especially those used in notebook applications. It is not typically used in embedded applications. It is a way of connecting devices without having to use cables. This technology is inexpensive to implement and is a reliable means of wireless connection.

An IrDA backplane has unique characteristics that solve the problems associated with a high-speed, embedded system that must withstand high shock and vibration levels. High-speed backplanes are typically implemented with large pin count connectors. System reliability is a problem because of the high failure rate of interconnection schemes. IrDA provides a way of communicating between system modules, in a backplane fashion, at rates up to 4 Mbps. A planned extension to the specification calls for rates to exceed 16 Mbps. This communication does not require connectors, rather data is transmitted via an optical interface. Additionally, electrical isolation is a benefit of an IrDA backplane. Each module is electrically isolated from the others because there are no electrical connections required to share the data between them.

Unique Features of the Invention

The invention is using IrDA to communicate on a backplane in a high-speed, embedded system able to withstand high shock and vibration.

Benefits:

- It increases reliability by eliminating connections required for data transfer between modules
- It mitigates risk of damage due to shock transferred from board to board by eliminating connections
- It provides electrical isolation between modules

Commercial Applications

This invention has applications to any high-speed, embedded system that needs to be ruggedized in some way. Examples include oil site surveying and digging and security surveillance equipment.

2. Description

The transmission medium for IrDA is air. Transceivers must be mounted close to line-of-sight or in a cavity with a polished surface. Figure 1 shows a possible implementation of the transceivers mounted in a cavity, the shaded area, where the IR lightwaves, emitted from the LED of the

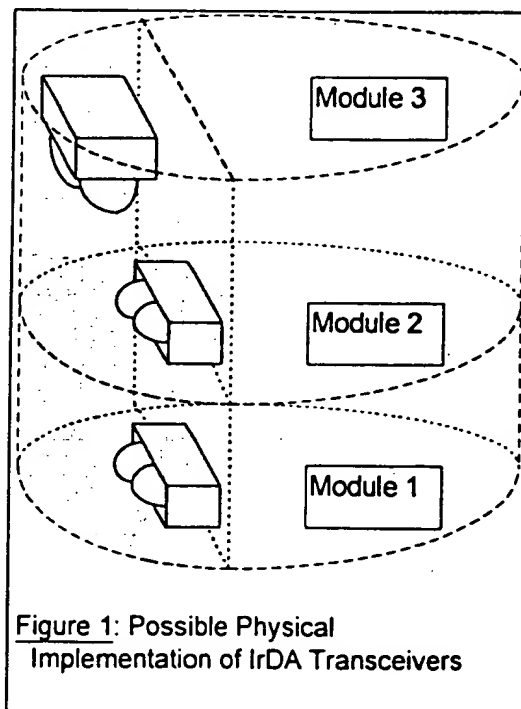


Figure 1: Possible Physical Implementation of IrDA Transceivers

transceiver, are scattered about the open space, reflecting off of the polished surface, and received by the photodiode of the transceiver.

In an embedded system, there is usually a need for modules to communicate with each other. Traditionally this is done with hard-wired connections. Two problems associated with interconnections in a high speed, embedded system that must withstand high shock and vibration are reliability of the interconnect and transfer of shock. IrDA addresses both of those issues. Furthermore, IrDA offers the benefit of electrical isolation when used as a system backplane.

2.1 Reliability

The reliability of a connection is a factor of the number of conductors. A high conductor count leads to less reliability. High speed systems typically require a large number of conductors to transmit the data in a timely manner. This can lead to a lower level of reliability. IrDA is presently capable of a 4Mbps data rate and future revisions of the standard are already planned to support data rates in excess of 16 Mbps. This high data rate is achievable without any connectors and therefore does not suffer from poor reliability issues.

2.2 Transfer of Shock

In a system that must withstand high shock and vibration, rigid interconnection schemes are undesirable. This is due to the transmission of shock from one module to another through the rigid interconnection. IrDA needs no connectors so there is no rigid interconnection between modules. This eliminates a path through which shock would otherwise be transmitted. System components are less likely to be damaged, and there are no connectors to be damaged, when exposed to this extreme environment.

2.3 Electrical Isolation

An additional benefit of IrDA is the electrical isolation it provides. This is achieved because there are no electrical connections required between modules in order to share data between them. Electrical isolation is desirable because of noise problems that can permeate a system. With electrical isolation, a noise problem, should it exist, can be confined to one module.

3. Conclusion

It can be difficult to communicate between modules in embedded systems that must operate at high data rates in high shock and vibration environments. When designing these types of systems, it is desirable to implement a backplane that addresses two characteristic problems, namely, poor reliability of connectors and difficulty in hardening the system to withstand high shock and vibration. IrDA addresses both of these issues. Due to its ability to transfer information at relatively high data rates without a connector, IrDA eliminates the problems of poor reliability due to connectors and the transfer of shock through a rigid interconnection. Also, IrDA offers the benefit of electrical isolation between modules.
